

REMARKS

Claim Rejections

Claims 1-3 and 5-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,682,423 (Brosnan et al.). Claim 4 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Brosnan et al. and U.S. Patent No. 5,876,284 (Acres et al.).

Applicants' application claims priority from two provisional applications. One filed on January 8, 2003 and the other on June 10, 2003. Brosnan et al. was published on November 7, 2002. As such, Brosnan et al. is not prior art under 35 U.S.C. 102(b). However, since Brosnan et al. was filed before the filing dates of the provisional applications from which Applicants' application claims priority, it appears to be available as prior art under 35 U.S.C. 102(e).

Claim Amendments

Claims 1 and 5 are amended to further patentably distinguish over Bronson et al.

The Cited Art

Brosnan et al. discloses a gaming machine network 50. The network 50 includes a community of gaming machines 2, servers 71-74, communication interface 52, and a network 60. The network 60 provides digital communication between all the nodes in the network 50. (Col. 6, lines 14-21). The servers 71-74 each provide a separate gaming service for the gaming machines. (Col. 6, lines 37-44).

The gaming machines 2a-2c communicate with the network 60 through communication interfaces 52a-52c. (Col. 7, lines 4-14). A gaming machine interface is located in a gaming machine top box 209 or on a main communication board 210 within a gaming machine cabinet. Alternatively, a gaming machine interface may be mounted to the side of a gaming machine cabinet. (Col. 14, lines 6-15; FIG. 1B).

The servers 71-74 communicate with the network 60 via communication interfaces 52d-52g. The communication interfaces 52d-52g provide data transmission and communication protocol translation services for the servers 71-74. (Col. 6, lines 47-50). Each server may use a different proprietary communication protocol, remote computer, and proprietary network hardware and connection scheme to communicate game information within the network 50. A communication interface for each server is then responsible for providing data transmission services for each server onto the common protocol and hardware used on the network 60. (Col. 6, lines 54-61).

The gaming machines and the servers are connected to their respective communication interfaces by a wired game service connection 54. (Col 7, lines 4-6; col. 8, lines 57-60; col. 9, lines 19-23; FIG. 1A). The communication interfaces 52a-52c for the gaming machines are connected to the network 60 by network lines 57. The network lines may use a wired, wireless, or combination connection scheme. (Col. 10, lines 2-6; col. 16, lines 55-61; FIG. 1A). The communication interfaces 52d-52g for the servers are in communication with the network 60 via an appropriate communication protocol. (Col. 6, lines 58-66).

Claims 1-3 and 5-9 Are Not Anticipated

A claim is anticipated when a single prior art reference discloses all features recited in the claim. Brosnan et al. does not disclose all the features of claims 1-3 and 5-9.

Amended claim 1, for instance, calls for a secure wireless server coupled to one or more information servers and a secure wireless receiver, other than the one or more information servers, structured to couple to the secure wireless server and to create a secure data channel between the wireless server and the wireless receiver.

Brosnan et al. does not disclose a gaming machine network that includes a secure wireless server coupled to one or more information servers and a secure wireless receiver, other

than the one or more information servers, structured to couple to the secure wireless server. It was said in response to Applicants' arguments that Bronson et al. discloses "at least 4 servers, where any 3 of the servers can be [an] information server and the other server can be the secure wireless server coupled to the information server." (Office Action , p.5). Although this may be true, there is no disclosure in Brosnan et al. of a separate secure wireless receiver coupled to such a secure wireless server.

Rather, Brosnan et al. discloses that a network line 57 between a communication interface 52a for a gaming machine 2a may use a wireless scheme to connect to a network 60. There is no disclosure in Brosnan et al. of a separate secure wireless receiver structured to couple to a secure wireless server, one of servers 71-74, to create a secure data channel between the wireless server and the wireless receiver.

Claim 5 calls for a secure wireless server coupled to one ore more information servers and a secure wireless receiver, other than the one or more information servers, structured to couple to the secured wireless server and create a secure data channel between the wireless server and the wireless receiver.

As noted, Brosnan et al. does not disclose a secure wireless server coupled to one or more information servers and a separate secure wireless receiver structured to couple to the secure wireless server. Brosnan et al. simply discloses that a gaming machine may communicate with a network 60 using a wireless communication scheme and that servers 71-74 are connected to this network.

Thus, for at least these reasons, claims 1-3 and 5-9 are not anticipated by Brosnan et al.

Claim 4 Would Not Have Been Obvious

Claim 4, which depends from claim 1, specifies that a session can only be established in certain time periods. As discussed, Brosnan et al. does not disclose the gaming network of

amended claim 1. As such, the subject matter of claim 4 would not have been obvious in view of the combination of Bronson et al. and of Acres et al.

Conclusion

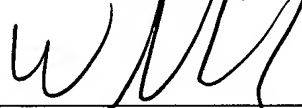
In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all the claims are now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, allowance of the claims at the earliest possible date is requested.

If prosecution of this application can be assisted by telephone, the Examiner is requested to call Applicants' undersigned attorney at (510) 663-1100.

If any fees are due in connection with the filing of this amendment (including any fees due for an extension of time), such fees may be charged to Deposit Account No. 500388 (Order No. IGT1P304).

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Respectfully submitted,
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